



Steve Pangelinan  
Chief of Police

### PRESS RELEASE

## **MILPITAS POLICE DEPARTMENT TAKING BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 22, 2016 – 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.**

On Saturday, October 22, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Milpitas Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its 12th opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to the Milpitas Police Department at 1275 N. Milpitas Blvd. The Milpitas Police Department can only accept pills or patches and cannot accept liquids, needles, or sharps. The service is free and anonymous, so no questions asked.

Last April, Milpitas residents turned in 246 pounds of unwanted prescription drugs. Americans turned in 447 tons (over 894,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at over 5,400 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 11 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 6.4 million pounds—about 3,200 tons—of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Take Back Day event, go to the DEA Diversion website: <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/>

Press Release By: Sergeant Joseph Heylen #253

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